



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 09 October 2007

Current Nationwide



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- The *Associated Press* reports that five hundred people were evacuated early Friday morning at the Indianapolis International Airport, after security officials intercepted a person carrying an urn containing what appeared to be cremated remains. It is not known how many flights were affected by the incident. (See item [11](#))
- *Reuters* reports that the H5N1 bird flu virus has mutated to infect people more easily and is circulating in birds in Africa and Europe. The mutation allows the virus to live and thrive in the human nose, throat, and upper respiratory tract, which are much cooler than avian body temperatures. According to researchers, more mutations are needed for H5N1 to become a pandemic strain. (See item [27](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED, **Cyber**: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 5, Bloomberg* – (Delaware) **Valero reports restart of reformer unit at Delaware refinery.** Valero Energy Corp., the largest U.S. refiner, reported it had begun restarting a reformer unit at its 210,000 barrel-a-day refinery in Delaware. A reformer provides about a third of a refinery's gasoline output. The restart of the unit caused a release of sulfur dioxide gas yesterday, Valero said in a filing to the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aFHgUaVXjhTo&refer=energy>

2. *October 4, Bloomberg* – (National) **Chevron's Tahiti project in gulf delayed a 2nd time.** Chevron Corp., the second-biggest U.S. oil company, said its \$3.5 billion Tahiti oil project in the Gulf of Mexico has again been delayed, this time due to a lack of the vessels needed to assemble the production platform. Chevron is renegotiating contracts with shipping companies that had been scheduled to haul the decks containing production facilities and sleeping quarters in July to the Tahiti field, said a company spokesman in Houston. The field is 140 miles from the Louisiana coast. Chevron engineers do not know when production will start from the Tahiti project. Chevron's efforts to increase oil and natural-gas production have been frustrated by project delays in Australia, the Gulf of Mexico and Kazakhstan. The company has 15 new oil and gas developments under construction worldwide that will cost \$44.2 billion to complete.
Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601207&sid=a_xzYt7MmVrs&refer=energy

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Chemical Industry

3. *October 4, KLTV* – (Texas) **All clear at East Texas office, evacuated from meth lab chemical spill.** Business is back to normal Friday at the Smith County Office Building, a day after an apparent drug chemical spill. The spill in the building's basement prompted an employee evacuation and eventually led officials to close the building for the day. Officials said two officers were moving a container packed with chemicals confiscated from a meth lab bust when the container broke, spilling the chemicals in a cloud of smoke. A crew from Fort-Worth was brought in to remove and dispose of the chemicals properly.
Source: <http://www.kltv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7171578>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste

4. *October 8, Washington Post* – (South Carolina) **Nuclear power prime for comeback.** Two decades ago, after Duke Energy abandoned its partly built nuclear power reactors here, the site was sold and turned into a movie set. Director James Cameron used it to film "The Abyss". With natural gas prices volatile and people anxious about climate change, the nuclear power industry is touting its technology as a way to meet the nation's growing energy needs without emitting more greenhouse gases. Over the next two years, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission expects applications to build as many as 32 new nuclear reactors. Duke Energy could be among them. It reacquired the Cherokee County site and has been tearing down old buildings so it can ask the NRC to let it start all over again.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/07/AR2007100701324.html>
5. *October 5, Solanco News* – (Washington, DC) **NRC issues report on nuclear safety.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued its "Fourth National Report for the Convention on Nuclear Safety." The updated report demonstrates how the U.S. Government

achieves and maintains a high level of nuclear safety worldwide by enhancing national measures and international cooperation, and by meeting the obligations of all the articles established by the Convention. This report addresses the issues identified in the peer-review of the third review meeting, discusses challenges and issues that have arisen since the third review meeting, discusses managing human capital, a major NRC focus area, and also discusses the NRC's preparations for licensing new reactors. In addition, for the first time, the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations has provided input to the report explaining how the nuclear industry maintains and improves nuclear safety. The 2007 report, which updates a 2004 report, will be peer reviewed by parties to the convention. Every three years the countries participating in the convention must submit reports on their programs for peer review as an incentive to achieve the highest possible levels of safety. The Fourth National Report Review Meeting will be held in Vienna, Austria, in April 2008.

Source: http://www.solanconews.com/Gov/Articles/2007/071005_NRC_nuclearsafety.htm

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *October 4, Madison County Journal* – (Mississippi) **L-3 Vertex picks up \$95M contract.** The U.S. Navy has exercised a \$95 million option for a local defense contractor to perform maintenance work on aircraft that trains future jet pilots. The deal represents the final year of a four-year contract originally awarded in 2003. When it was announced four years ago, the contract's total worth was \$450 million. The deal calls for Vertex Aerospace to perform logistics support services for 189 training systems for the T-45 aircraft at the Naval Air Station in Meridian, as well as the Naval Air Station in Kingsville, Texas. The company will employ about 700 personnel to perform all maintenance, engineering services, and supply management. The company will also provide support for ground-based training simulators for the T-45, as well as land-based detachments for the aircraft. The T-45 is used to train flight students in the Undergraduate Jet Pilot Training Program for the U.S. Navy.

Source:

<http://www.onlinemadison.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19290>

7. *October 4, Examiner.com* – (National) **EFJ, Incorporated's 3e Technologies International subsidiary receives \$7.7 million award from U.S. Department of Defense.** The 3e Technologies International (3eTI) subsidiary has been funded by a U.S. Department of Defense customer to provide the U.S. Navy with a secure wireless video and mobility solution. The funding is part of a time and materials-based contract vehicle with a ceiling of \$7.7 million. The order is currently incrementally funded in the amount of \$2.2 million. A key objective of the effort is to develop and field a shipboard video solution that provides a distributed video and video analytics capability. The effort will expand current shipboard surveillance and force protection related video capabilities by providing expanded coverage via wireless video streaming and increased monitoring efficiency through the use of video analytics.

Source: [http://www.examiner.com/p-](http://www.examiner.com/p-49121~EFJ_Inc_s_3e_Technologies_International_Subsidary_Receives_7_7_million_Award_From_U_S_DoD.html)

[49121~EFJ_Inc_s_3e_Technologies_International_Subsidary_Receives_7_7_million_Award_From_U_S_DoD.html](http://www.examiner.com/p-49121~EFJ_Inc_s_3e_Technologies_International_Subsidary_Receives_7_7_million_Award_From_U_S_DoD.html)

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *October 6, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* – (National) **Scams aimed at students often disguised.** New scams surfaced involving college student loans. According to a PNC Bank representative on the Indiana University of Pennsylvania campus, a student received an email informing her that she won a \$500,000 grant. The catch was she had to wire 10 percent of the money back to the granting organization to support educational programs. However, officials have warned students about other types of scams such as loan consolidation and credit card offers, which charge an up-front fee, but also of pretend individuals looking for roommates or subleasing apartments. Fraudsters respond to student advertisements, send a check worth more than the rent, then ask for the difference back. By the time the bank informs the students the checks they deposited were fake, scammers have already cashed in their money. Moreover, if the students send the ‘extra’ money on personal checks, they become vulnerable to identity theft. Source: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/s_531530.html
9. *October 4, Breitbart* – (National) **SEC says crackdown on stock-touting spam paying dividends.** The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) announced that its “Operation Spamlot” against the perpetrators of stock-touting spam has proven efficient and led to a 30 percent decrease in financial spam and a 50 percent cut in spam-related complaints. The initiative started last March and targeted the issuers of mass emails “preying on novice investors and urging them to buy the stock of a touted company. The messages often claim the touted stock has a bargain price that is poised to rocket higher.” The fraudsters would then sell the stock if the price was hiked by naïve investors believing the information in the spam emails. SEC officials stated that even SEC personnel received the emails, in spite of the spam-blocking software programs. The scourge of spam e-mails is “one of the worst menaces of the information age,” said the SEC’s chairman. Source: http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=071004163750.zkrr3qz4&show_article=1

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

10. *October 8, The New York Post* – (National) **JFK testing Super-Mart baggage-screeners.** The Transportation Security Administration offered contracts to three companies, which will provide new baggage-screening devices for testing at various major airports. The machines, which are presently being tested for 30 days each at Kennedy’s Terminal 4, at Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C., and in Albuquerque, carry a price tag between \$50,000 and \$150,000. Officials stated that the new systems are capable of “color-coding different items based on what they are made of but also of providing multiple and clearer views of baggage instead of the single top view most current machines offer.” Source: http://www.nypost.com/seven/10082007/news/regionalnews/jfk_testing_super_smart_baggage.htm
11. *October 5, The Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Urn prompts evacuation at Ind. Airport.** The

Indianapolis International Airport spokeswoman announced that five hundred people were evacuated early Friday morning after a person brought an urn to the airport that allegedly contained cremated remains. As a precautionary measure, police and airport security decided to evacuate the terminals and check the material. It is not known how many flights were affected by the incident.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071005/ap_on_re_us/airport_evacuation;_ylt=AqJBJO11Rm_DWSnZJjJWJKJG2ocA

12. *October 4, KIRO, Seattle, WA* – (Washington) **Unclaimed object found aboard jet causes evacuation.** On Thursday, following a remark made by a passenger that an unclaimed cell phone was left in his seat, airport officials evacuated an airplane after it landed at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Because the object looked like it had been taken part and then assembled back together and nobody claimed it, the pilot of the Alaska Airlines plane decided the plane needed to be evacuated. The aircraft was carrying 104 passengers and 5 crew members, who were transported by bus to the terminal. The incident convinced airport officials to halt all take-offs and landings while the plane was evacuated. The airport spokesman stated that it is not known how many flights were affected by the halt, but the longest delay was 12 minutes. The F.B.I. and Seattle police determined that the cell phone did not pose any danger. Source: <http://www.kirotv.com/news/14270685/detail.html>

13. *October 4, The Brownsville Herald* – (Texas) **Senators want DHS to consult local officials on border fence.** Texas's two U.S. senators sponsored an amendment to the defense appropriations bill, which would oblige the Homeland Security secretary to consult with local government and property owners in the U.S. "to minimize the impact on the environment, culture, commerce, and quality of life for the communities and residents located near the sites at which such fencing is to be constructed." The legislation is aimed at recent protests raised by Rio Grande Valley officials regarding the planned fence along the U.S.-Mexico border. One of the senators addressed some border mayors, who expressed intentions to file a lawsuit against the government, and suggested other alternatives before resorting to litigation. According to maps released last week, some portions of the proposed fence would go through Brownsville's local sanctuaries, the local college campus and city-owned properties and parks. However, Homeland Security authorities emphasized that the maps are only preliminary.

Source:

http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/news/fence_80875_article.html/border_cornyn.html

14. *October 4, El Paso Times* – (Texas) **Bridge expansion adds to congestion, frustration.** In El Paso, Texas international bridges are experiencing congested traffic due to new construction. Although additional vehicle lanes will ease the border traffic when finished, the construction presently causes waiting periods of up to three hours for drivers and an hour and a half for pedestrians. The \$26.6 million project is estimated to cut the border crossing time in half, especially after the implementation of stricter documentation rules. Nevertheless, in spite of predicted benefits, local businesses fear that they are losing money and customers. According to a 2006 study on crossings of the Southwest border conducted by the Texas A&M International University, a decline in border crossings by 5 percent equals a \$380 million loss in sales and a 7.6-percent increase in unemployment.

Source: http://www.elpasotimes.com/business/ci_7076131

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *October 7, The San Francisco Chronicle* – (National) **Livermore Lab fined \$450,000 for mishandling anthrax.** Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California was fined \$450,000 due to two shipping incidents in 2005. In September 2005, a scientist left the twist caps off two containers of anthrax and a loose cap on a third vial in a shipment to Palm Beach, Florida. In the second incident, a shipment to Virginia contained more vials than it should have, a violation of the packaging restrictions. A spokeswoman for the laboratory stated that "no anthrax leaked from the vials in the Florida shipment and that the inner packaging would have trapped any anthrax if it had." These incidents resulted in a seven month shutdown of all of the California laboratory's anthrax-related research for an audit, reorganization and retraining. In April 2006, the laboratory was granted a three-year renewal of its registration to handle biological agents.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/10/07/BA6RSLIUB.DTL>

16. *October 4, Los Angeles Business Journal* – (National) **Agency hears more port plan criticism.** The Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference added their voice to those of the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association and the National Industrial Transportation League in opposing Los Angeles and Long Beach ports' Clean Air Action Plan. Part of this plan would require "independent owner-operators to hire employee drivers and replace or retrofit all of the trucks so they meet 2007 emissions standards." Industry groups argue that this would increase costs and drive several trucking companies out of business. Both shipping and trucking industries have complained to the Federal Maritime Commission, but it is unclear how much power the agency would have to stop the program, although they do have the authority to ensure that local port practices do not interfere with international shipping.

Source:

<http://www.labusinessjournal.com/article.asp?aID=53610084.9748172.1535885.5945114.5395671.729&aID2=118136>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

17. *October 6, Usda.gov* – (National) **Wisconsin Firm Recalls Ground Beef Products Due to Possible E. coli O157:H7 Contamination.** Cargill Meat Solutions Corporation is voluntarily recalling approximately 845,000 pounds of frozen ground beef patties produced at its Butler, Wisconsin, location because they may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced Friday. The frozen ground beef patties were produced on various dates from Aug. 9 through Aug. 17, 2007, and were distributed to retail establishments, restaurants and institutions nationwide. Each label bears the establishment number "Est. 924A" inside the USDA mark of inspection.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/7033137.stm>

18. *October 4, The Associated Press* – (National) **USDA plans faster warnings on meat.** The Agriculture Department will speed up warnings on contaminated meat in the future, officials said yesterday, in response to criticism of an 18-day delay in seeking the recall of millions of pounds of tainted ground beef processed in New Jersey. Agriculture officials in Washington said that, while they knew as early as September 7 that frozen hamburger patties could be contaminated after preliminary tests indicated the presence of E. coli, it was impossible to seek a recall without confirmation from a more sophisticated test. They added that they would look at how the department might issue alerts earlier in the future.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/health_science/daily/20071005_USDA_plans_faster_warnings_on_meat.html

19. *October 4, Bloomberg* – (National) **Food from China needs more U.S. scrutiny, report says.** After traveling to China to review how the country polices food safety, House Energy and Commerce Committee investigators said, in a report released Friday, that increased examinations and laboratory testing should be completed before food reaches American consumers. Imports of all goods from China rose 24 percent to \$341 billion, in the last fiscal year, which ended last month, according to U.S. government data. At a September 26 congressional hearing, a Federal and Drug Administration (FDA) deputy commissioner said that the agency should inspect more food imports as part of a broader strategy to identify products that pose the biggest dangers. The FDA says it is preparing a plan to improve food safety that will be released in coming weeks.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aa5dvK.Ji3LQ&refer=home>

20. *October 4, Reuters* – (National) **USTR urges caution on import safety regulation.** With lawmakers contemplating legislation to enhance safety procedures after several incidents raised questions about the safety of imported goods, the general counsel for the U.S. Trade Representative's office warned that the U.S. could face retaliatory moves from countries that buy its products if Washington enacts legislation on import safety that is not scrupulously fair. Instead, he said, the U.S. should work with foreign producers, U.S. importers and retailers to build safety into the design, manufacturing and distribution of goods, backed up by government inspection and oversight. U.S. farm exports are forecasted to reach nearly \$80 billion in the current budget year, making it "critically important" Congress not take any action that could encourage other countries to close their markets to imported food, he added.

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Water Sector

21. *October 5, The San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Breaks keep water crews busy.** City water department workers in San Diego, California had to deal with three water line breaks yesterday. The most significant was a water main break near Sea World that flooded a major street. As a result, Sea World and several hotels were without water for five hours yesterday afternoon and traffic congestion in the area lasted well into the evening.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20071005-9999-1m5main.html>

22. *October 4, The Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Chandler officials expect clean water test results.** Recent tests on water in the Lone Butte Industrial Park on Gila River Reservation land outside of Chandler, Arizona found traces of the chemical solvent trichloroethylene (TCE). City officials are testing drinking water from two wells in the southwest part of the city, but they do not expect them to test positive for any contaminants. TCE is usually employed in removing grease from metal parts and is believed to “pose a health hazard over time if found in high enough concentrations.” The chemical is generally found in some wells in industrial areas, but has not yet been seen in drinking water wells. Officials from Chandler will meet with the Environmental Protection Agency to discuss the situation.
Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/community/ahwatukee/articles/1004cr-wells1003.html>
23. *October 4, The Associated Press* – (Washington) **Discovery of E. coli in Spanaway leads to school closures.** Ten schools were closed and almost 20,000 households and businesses were told to boil water after E. coli was discovered in the water of Spanaway, Washington. The state Health Department is working with the Spanaway Water Company to determine the source of the contamination and tests are pending on samples from all of the company’s wells and storage tanks.
Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/334393_spanaway05.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *October 8, BBC* – (International) **Bird flu kills Indonesian woman.** A 44-year-old Indonesian woman, who fell ill after buying chickens from a market in Pekanbaru city in central Sumatra, has died. Health ministry officials aid that blood tests showed that she had the H5N1 strain of bird flu. This brings the country’s death toll to 87.
Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/7033137.stm>
25. *October 5, The Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **Warm weather prolongs West Nile threat.** The number of people infected by West Nile virus is likely to increase until a hard frost occurs, according to Illinois health officials. Twelve more cases were confirmed there this week, bringing this year’s total to 60, according to the state Department of Public Health. There have been four deaths. About two-thirds of the 2007 cases have occurred in the Chicago region, mostly in the suburbs.
Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-westnile_bothoct05,1,4813183.story?ctrack=1&cset=true
26. *October 5, CNN* – (National) **Rare but deadly amoeba infection hard to prevent.** Six people have died this summer in the United States from the naegleria fowleri amoeba. Health officials believe they all contracted the amoeba while swimming in “warm, freshwater lakes, rivers or natural springs.” The amoeba enters the human body through the nose. It then travels to the brain, where it begins to feed. Symptoms of the amoeba's rampage begin 1 to 14 days after infection and resemble the flu. At the onset of those symptoms the amoeba victim's health swiftly declines. Although exposure is usually fatal, an Orange County, Florida health official says a cocktail of drugs can fight the amoeba, if administered in time. Until this summer, there

were only 24 known cases of the virus in the U.S. since 1989, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Health officials cannot explain the spike in cases this summer, except that weather plays a factor. They also cannot explain why a disproportionate number of males contract the amoeba.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/HEALTH/10/04/amoeba.lake/index.html>

27. *October 4, Reuters* – (National) **Bird flu mutating, affects people more easily.** The H5N1 bird flu virus has mutated to infect people more easily, although it still has not transformed into a pandemic strain, researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison said on Thursday. The mutation, circulating most commonly in birds in Africa and Europe, allows the virus to live and thrive in the human nose, throat, and upper respiratory tract, which are much cooler than avian body temperatures. The normal temperature of the human nose and throat is 91.4 degrees Fahrenheit and the normal human body temperature is 96.6 degrees Fahrenheit. Birds on the other hand usually have a body temperature of 106 degrees Fahrenheit. The lead researcher said more mutations are needed for H5N1 to become a pandemic, but he is uncertain how many more.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21141012/>

28. *October 4, Reuters* – (National) **More than 500,000 toys recalled for high lead levels.** More than half a million toys, including key chains, Winnie the Pooh bookmarks and Baby Einstein color blocks, are being recalled because of excessive lead levels, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said Thursday. All the recalled toys were made in China and had “high levels” of lead, the commission said in a statement. The recall also affects about 35,000 Baby Einstein Discover and Play Color Blocks, 150,000 Journals, bookmarks and bracelets, 79,000 Pirates of the Caribbean Medallion Squeeze Lights, 63,000 plastic Frankenstein tumblers sold by Dollar General, and wooden alphabet and math block wagons sold by KB Toys Inc.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,299458,00.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

29. *October 5, The Associated Press* – (International) **Huge U.S. Embassy compound delayed.** The opening of the \$600 million U.S. Embassy in Baghdad has been delayed into next year, according to U.S. officials. The compound, which was scheduled to be completed in September, has suffered problems related to its physical plant, including electrical systems. The delay will not cost U.S. taxpayers any more as the contractor has agreed to deliver for the originally set price. The new embassy will be safer than the current working and living quarters of current embassy employees, who work in the green zone in Baghdad. The U.S. congress has expressed their concerns about the reliability of the contractor and the lack of State Department oversight on the project.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/meast/10/05/iraq.embassy.ap/index.html>

30. *October 4, Government Computer News* – (District of Columbia) **Air Force screens credentials against databases.** The Air Force District of Washington (AFDW) has bolstered the screening of visitors to its bases through a series of identification checks against scores of federal and private databases using a system proved by Mobilisa of Port Townsend,

Washington. The new system uses a handheld wireless scanner to gather data from documents such as U.S. and Canadian driver's licenses, passports, and military and government ID cards. The system then compares the data to more than 100 databases of individuals who are wanted for criminal offenses or barred from military installations. In the past, gate guards looked at ID cards and verified whether they were authentic, expired or current. The new system enables AFDW to tell determine whether the card is cancelled or stolen, or if the individual is barred from an installation. In addition to scanning ID cards against local police, F.B.I. and Interpol lists, as well as other databases, the system can also accommodate customized databases – for example, if AFDW had a database of individuals barred from its bases, ID cards could be scanned against it as well.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/45145-1.html

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *October 4, Science Daily* — (National) **Emergency responders will soon have data from U.S. sensors immediately available.** SensorPedia, a writeable Website in development at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), solves a huge problem by giving emergency responders and decision-makers access to data from diverse sensor networks in near real time. Rather than attempting to get everyone to adopt one standard, SensorPedia adopts the underlying technology of Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia collaboratively written by readers, as a model. SensorPedia, however, is different from Wikipedia in three ways. The ORNL implementation of SensorPedia will link to near-real-time data, which will provide streaming of data; SensorPedia will support interactive “mashups” of information; and only approved personnel will be authorized to write to the SensorPedia Web site. The ORNL team developing the concept said SensorPedia will be used initially within the federal government. The site will be hosted on a wiki-enabled ORNL server that can support the established credentialing and authentication control. Ultimately, SensorPedia could play a key role in the never-ending mission to detect and respond to emergent threats.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/10/071004115123.htm>

32. *October 4, The Morning Call* – (Pennsylvania) **Emergency radio system may be up in state by end of 2008.** After a decade of funding problems and technical glitches, a statewide radio system designed to ease communication between emergency responders is expected to be operating statewide by the end of 2008. The system – now budgeted at \$311 million – will need another \$57.1 million to operate. That does not include annual maintenance, which will cost millions more. Several lawmakers said Wednesday that they believe the system is necessary for state police and other state agencies, such as the state Department of Transportation, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Health, to communicate in the event of a terrorist attack or natural disaster, such as the Valentine's Day storm that shut large portions of Interstate 78 and Interstate 80 and stranded motorists. Additionally, they said, counties will have the ability to connect their emergency response personnel into the system.

Source: http://www.mcall.com/news/nationworld/state/all-a4_5radio.6073239oct04.0,6713506.story?track=rss

33. *October 4, WRGB* – (New York) **State replacing 35,000 disaster masks for rescuers.** New York State announced it would replace about 35,000 disaster masks because they fail to meet federal standards for emergency responders. The masks were distributed several years ago to police, firefighters, ambulance crews and other rescuers throughout the state. The new masks conform to standards issued in 2005 by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. New York City, which received its own federal money, did not participate in the state program.

Source: http://www.cbs6albany.com/news/masks_1252001_article.html/state_new.html

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Information Technology

34. *October 5, El Paso Times* – (National) **New e-mail scam: Hit-man threat.** An Ocean County, New Jersey resident reported an email from a so-called Eddy saying “I know that this may sound very surprising to you but it’s the situation. I have been paid some ransom in advance to terminate you with some reasons listed to me by my employer.” The sender, then, demanded \$8,000 in exchange for sparing his life. The email also warned the recipient not to contact any friends or relatives about the message because they might be involved in the murder plot. However, after conducting some research on the internet, the man discovered that a similar email scam had been running in Arizona. The F.B.I. received 115 reports of similar emails in less than one month last winter from around the country claiming amounts of money up to \$80,000.

Source: http://www.elpasotimes.com/nationworld/ci_7092970

35. *October 5, IDG News Service* – (California) **Bad things lurking on government sites.** The U.S. federal government took steps earlier this week to shut down Web sites in California in order to protect the public from hacked Web sites, but new incidents show that the problem is not going away any time soon. On Thursday, compromised pages hosted by the Brookhaven National Laboratory and the Superior Court of Madera County, California, were still hosting inappropriate content. Brookhaven had links that redirected visitors to pornographic Web servers, and the Madera County court site featured ads for pornography and Viagra. Brookhaven is a U.S. Department of Energy lab that specializes in nuclear and high-energy research. The security of U.S. government Web sites has been front-page news in California this week after the U.S. General Services Administration, which administers the .gov top-level domain, temporarily removed California's state servers from the Internet's Domain Name System (DNS) infrastructure, apparently because of a security problem on the Web site of a small state agency, the Transportation Authority of Marin. Security researchers have called for better awareness and responsiveness for website administrators – especially in the .gov and .edu domains – because of the constant danger those sites face by hackers. Even when outside researchers discover flaws, they have a very difficult time contacting Web site administrators to report the problem, one researcher said. “Everyone has really got to do a better job on securing the Internet. You can’t just put a Web server out there and forget about it any more,” he added.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9041023&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

36. *October 4, Infoworld* – (National) **Security vendors bring zombie fighters to life.** Data leakage prevention might currently be the hottest IT security submarket, but vendors are also tuning up their product offerings to help customers ward off the presence of botnet-infected zombie computers. As botnet operators continue to advance the sophistication of their attacks and the manner in which they use and manipulate their armies of infected devices, businesses are asking technology providers for new defense mechanisms, vendors claim, with both anti-virus market leader Symantec and network security specialist Arbor Networks introducing new products to address the problem this week. According to Symantec's most recent Internet Security Threat Report, published in September, the company's sensors detected more than 5 million distinct botnet-infected computers during the first six months of 2007, which represents roughly a 7 percent increase when compared to the same period last year. Heightening the issue is the speed at which botnet operators are changing the locations of their command and control centers, which act as the brains of the distributed zombie computer systems. The average command and control center stays up and running for only four days at a time at this point, according to Symantec's latest research. Arbor, which markets technologies used by enterprises, ISPs, and other carriers to monitor for attacks in the traffic flowing over large networks, launched an updated version of its PeakFlow SP platform, which includes new capabilities for sniffing out botnets. Among the upgrades to the package that will help its customers separate zombie activity from legitimate traffic are new capabilities that give network operators the ability to see what type of applications are responsible for individual packets of data, company officials said.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/10/04/Security-vendors-bring-zombie-fighters-to-life_1.html

37. *October 4, The Associated Press* – (National) **Retailers, creditors clash on security.** Retailers and the credit card industry are at odds as they try to restore consumer confidence after recent massive thefts of credit card information. The National Retail Federation on Thursday urged a card industry organization to stop requiring retailers to keep customers' card numbers for up to 18 months. The stored data helps track product returns and disputed or suspicious transactions. But retailers say the data would be more secure if only credit card companies and banks that issue the cards stored it. The biggest recent retail data breach involved TJX Cos., the Framingham, Mass.-based discount retailer, which said early this year that information from at least 45 million customer credit and debit cards had been exposed to potential fraud. Last month, Canadian investigators concluded TJX had kept data with insufficient encryption — and for years after it should have been purged. Less than half the nation's biggest merchants appear to be complying with card industry security standards — which include encryption and other safeguards — despite a Sept. 30 deadline set by Visa USA, which plans to levy monthly fines up to \$25,000 against merchant banks that noncompliant retailers rely on. The retail federation said U.S. retailers are increasingly at odds with the card industry over the security standards, known as PCI. Despite spending \$1 billion on meeting the standards the past three years, their attempts to comply "are not enough to accomplish the ultimate goal of protecting the consumer," the letter read. "Data breaches have continued to occur at an unacceptable rate."

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071004/ap_on_hi_te/retail_data_security;_ylt=AkodNtZMiKgX

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

38. *October 5, Webwire* – (National) **Qwest Customer Internet Protection Program increases security for broadband customers.** In a press release Friday, Qwest Communications International Inc. announced a program designed to help curtail the spread of viruses and malicious software on the Internet and to assist customers whose computers are infected with viruses or malware. The Qwest Customer Internet Protection Program (CIPP) notifies Qwest Broadband customers about viruses and malware that may be on their computers, informs them of safe Internet security practices and helps them clean viruses and malware from their computers. The proliferation of cyber crime continues to require individuals, businesses and even government agencies to take action against ever-changing methods of attack, the release said. Because viruses and malware can cause problems not only for individual broadband customers, but also for the online community, Qwest said it proactively monitors its network to detect viruses or malware.
Source: <http://www.webwire.com/ViewPressRel.asp?aId=49653>
39. *October 4, RCR Wireless News* – (National) **Court won't expedite VZW's challenge to open access.** The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit rejected Verizon Wireless' emergency motion for fast-track treatment of its challenge to the Federal Communication Commission's open-access rule, increasing the likelihood that litigation will remain in play in the lead up to the Jan. 16 start of the 700 MHz auction. Verizon Wireless had argued it was imperative that judicial review of the issue be completed before the auction begins. The FCC and Frontline Wireless L.L.C. opposed Verizon Wireless' emergency motion, with the commission acknowledging more 700 MHz suits may be forthcoming and should be addressed as a package rather than in piecemeal fashion by the court. Additional suits could reach the court after the FCC acts on petitions for reconsideration of 700 MHz rules.
Source: <http://www.rcrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071004/FREE/71004001/1005>
40. *October 4, PR Newswire* – (National) **E-SPONDER Express™ now available for responder agencies.** In a press release Thursday Convergence Communications announced the availability of E-SPONDER Express(TM), the first plug-and-play incident management appliance that enables first-responders to prepare, respond and recover from emergency incidents and meet NIMS (National Incident Management Systems) obligations. E-SPONDER Express is listed at \$19,999. E-SPONDER Express comes with NIMS/ICS (Incident Command System) policies and procedures already built into the system. According to the company,

organizations are able to effectively manage an incident following NIMS/ICS guidelines by filling out ICS Forms in the system, and reporting against the data captured in the system during the incident. Reports and forms it manages can be used as proof of NIMS/ICS compliance. As a result of Homeland Security Presidential Directive (09/04 HSPD Directive 5), all first response agencies must meet certain certification criteria for NIMS/ICS. Proof of compliance is necessary for reimbursements under FEMA guidelines as well as accreditation and certification. E-SPONDER Express helps jurisdictions meet the NIMS obligations of ICS implementation, IAP creation, corrective action planning, personnel accountability, resource accountability and management and standardization of the planning process, said the company. Source: http://www.examiner.com/p-49628~E_SPONDER_Express_TM_Now_Available_for_Responder_Agencies.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

41. *October 8, Greeley Tribune* – (Colorado) **Kodak employees evacuated.** Kodak employees were evacuated early Monday morning after smoke was detected in the ventilation system of the thermal media building, No. C41. Officials, who were investigating possible sources, said no building was on fire. The thermal media building of the plant in Windsor is where Kodak's ink jet products are created. No injuries have been reported. Source: <http://www.greeleytrib.com/article/20071008/NEWS/71008003>
42. *October 4, The Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Police blast into building, kill man who shot 5 at law office.** Early Friday morning, police killed a 63-year-old man, who had shot five people in a Louisiana law office on Thursday afternoon, injuring three and killing two. After a standoff, police used explosives to enter the building and killed the man in an exchange of gunfire.

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

43. *October 6, The Flint Journal* – (Michigan) **Decaying dam gets mayor's attention.** The Hamilton Dam outside of Flint, Michigan has moved toward the top of the city's priority list, as the Mayor announced that the city has a "formal commitment to finding funding for a new dam to replace the 87-year-old structure." Increasing deterioration to the structure has been noted in safety inspections over the past two years and it is one of approximately 20 dams in Michigan considered seriously unsafe by the Association of State Dam Safety Officials. The federal government is considering legislation that would funnel funds to states for dam repair projects like this.

Source: <http://www.mlive.com/news/flintjournal/index.ssf?/base/news-46/1191662493124820.xml&coll=5>

44. *October 5, Vindicator Trumbull* – (Ohio) **Girard unlikely to afford dam repairs.** The federal government responded to a request from an Ohio Senator to provide funds to repair the Lower Girard Lake Dam in Ohio. To use the \$16 million in federal money, however, the city must match 35 percent of the amount and is not able to do so. For several years the city has been under orders from the state Department of Natural Resources to either repair or tear down the dam, as it is unsafe. A few years ago the lake was drained in order to protect the 30 homes in the flood zone. Although the issue will be raised with the city council, the mayor thinks that the dam is more likely to be breached than repaired.

Source: http://www.vindy.com/content/local_regional/290723774366432.php

45. *October 5, The Standard-Times* – (Massachusetts) **Forge Pond Dam needs repairs.** Engineering consultants hired by Massachusetts' Office of Dam Safety reported that Forge Pond Dam must either be breached or rebuilt. The consultants pointed out that if Forge Pond Dam fails, then Monument and Tisdale dams will as well. Both Forge Pond Dam and Monument are designated as high hazard, because, if they fail, there will likely be loss of life. The Forge Pond Dam currently belongs to a New Bedford citizen, who has "not complied with state directives to fix the dam;" however, the town of Freetown is discussing the possibility of taking control of the dam, either by buying it from him, or through eminent domain or tax title.

Source:

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071005/NEWS/710050347>

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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